four weeks. IDBI has since then submitted a reprot to BIFR.

Sale of Bhaiyas in Punjab

1267. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item that appeared in "The Times of India", Mumbai edition of 27th March, 1998, unde the caption "Brisk sale of Bhaiyas in Punjab mandis".;

(b) what are the comments of Government on the issue; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in prohibiting sale of human beings in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Displaced Textile Mill Workers in Gujarat

1268. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have extended any financial assistance to the Government of Gujarat for rehabilitation of displaced textile mill workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Textiles in a communication in November, 1997 has communicated that they have not extended any financial assistance to Government of Gujarat for rehabilitation of displaced textile mill workers. It has however been reported by the Ministry of Industry in a communication dated 6.3.98 that NRF assistance is being extended through Gandhi Labour Institute Ahmedabad for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers in Gujarat. This department has also extended the duration of the training period to a maximum period of 6 months for 7 selected trades w.e.f. 1.10.1997.

The Ministry of Textiles has also informed that in pursuance of the statement of Textile policy of 1985 Government have set up a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of the workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills. the objective of TWRFS is to provide an interim relief to workers. Relief to the workers is provided only for three years on a tapering basis, 75% of wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the the second year and 25% in the third year. The scheme is applicable through out the country.

Indians Going to Gulf countries

1269. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Indians are going to Gulf countries for jobs on forged documents;

(b) if so, the number of such persons/ cases detected for the last five years ending with 31st December, 1997;

(c) the details of the action taken to stop this illegal traffic;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to modify the present system to check this illegal traffic; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) As per information available, 9419 cases of forgery by Indians at the time of entry as well as exit, to and fro in countries all over the world, during the last five years ending with 31st December, 1997 were detected.